

Secretary's Food Safety Advisory Committee Meetings

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Each year the U.S. Food and Drug Administration provides the Bureau of Consumer Health's Food Protection and Consumer Safety Program with a grant in continued support of the Secretary's Food Safety Advisory Committee (SFSAC).

SFSAC first convened in 1999 and serves as a vehicle to foster communication and cooperation among food safety stakeholders. These stakeholders include county, state and federal employees, educators, consumers and members of the Kansas food service industry.

There are two SFSAC meetings held biannually. The most recent SFSAC meetings were held Dec. 14 -15 at the SRS Learning Center in Topeka. The Dec. 14 meeting attendance consisted of industry and food safety partners while the Dec. 15 meeting was comprised of state and county regulators.

The meetings began with a welcome from Doug Farmer, Assistant Secretary, on Dec. 14 and Richard Morrissey, Interim Director of Health, on Dec. 15. Following the welcome Mary Glassburner, Director of the Food Protection and Consumer Safety Program (FPCS), provided an update of events occurring within the Food Protection Program.

Autumn Schuck, KDHE FPCS District Manager and Darcy Basye, Reno County Environmental Health Program, presented 'Temporary Food Service Events' in Kansas. The morning concluded with a presentation from Kevin Roberts, Kansas State University, titled 'Improving Food Safety Practices of Restaurant Employees.'

The second half of the meeting began with a panel discussion on 'Food Safety and Security.' The panel consisted of Mindee Reece, KDHE Bioterrorism Program Director, Debbie Nickels, KDHE Public Health Educator for the Office of Local and Rural Health, Dan Riley, KDA Chief Officer, Cheryl Banez Ocfemia, KDHE Epidemiology (Dec. 14), and David Stuever, KDHE Bioterrorism/Epidemiology (Dec. 15).

The food safety and security panel was followed by a roundtable discussion with the goal of producing a food security checklist and pamphlet for food service establishments. Mary Glassburner concluded the meeting with an update on upcoming projects for the Food Protection Program.

The next SFSAC meeting will be held Spring 2005. For more information contact - Heather DeVore at hdevore@kdhe.state.ks.us.